THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

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IN WANDSWORTH DETENTION BARRACKS

E CARCERE

FRAGMENTS FROM A POEM BY ERIC CHAPPELOW—C.O.*

Four walls, pale buff below, chalk-white above;
A buff iron door wherethrough your gaoler's eye
Can watch you furtively
Whene'er, from dawn until that hour whereof
The silent passing is the shadow whereby
Your day of watch and work is overgone,
You keep your cell: with some small glimpse of sun
Chequered through iron bars upon the floor;
A sense of wooden cleanliness, bright tin-ware
Burnished by many a prisoner before,
A captive body, these, not more than these,
Are yours through all the glory of the year,
Ye whom the call of Beauty far away
Like a faery horn from faint dim hills and grey
Has drawn to stand for God's white verities,
These, but not more than these. Outside there's blue,
Exquisite blue in heaven, outside, outside,
'Neath many a cool green overshadowed bank
The water lip-lips o'er its stony way,
Dark, cool and sweet, 'neath the o'ermastering ray
Of the goodly sun; outside full many a bird
Twitters from blooming spray to blooming spray,
Outside a spring wind's blowing. . . .
. . . . . .
Out through the bars, beyond the walls—on, on,
My spirit soars and shines and soars and sings:
God's in His heaven,
Iron bars
Can never hide the light of stars,
Four walls of prison even
Cannot veil the cloths of heaven.
Out beyond
Wall on wall,
Sun shines, dews fall,
The wind blows; there's ne'er a bond
Can keep my spirit from beyond.
. . . . . .
Beauty within, that cannot be kept back,
Singing and mounting like a lark to heaven,
Mounting and singing thus into my soul:—
O Soul of mine, thou self-distrustful pilgrim,
Ploughing thy lonely furrow at grey dawn,
Scanning the faint horizon for some sign
Through the dull murkiness, the troubled light,
Of the splendour of God's dawn, take not thy staff
For further travels, for thy work is here. . . .
What's to fear
If thy heart hath spoken to thee? What's to care
What, when the end, if to thy quiet spirit
There hath come wisdom from the lips of God?
Doubt, fear of the unknown oppress thee, Pilgrim?
Weariness, utter weariness of the grey
Unbroken, level, drab obscurity?
What else could'st thou have done? What other road
Have taken? . . . . . .
. . . . . The world's at war;
Madness hath risen to God's judgment seat.
. . . . . .
. . . . . One only god, grim Fear,
The primitive caveman's need of preservation,
Sways the mad human race. . . . . .
. . . . . .
What could'st thou else? Either to take thy stand
Fanned by the wind of popular opinion,
Take up the sword and drive the harsh blue steel
Through the warm body even to the bone,
Or hie thee to thy furrow. . . . . .
. . . . . .
I gaze around my cell; I see thy face
Upon my barren shelf, and close beside
The token of my Greece, thy kindly thought
Sent me, that of my former days might come
Some memory to link me to this present,
The pure Greek statue of the mourning woman,
Pathetic Sorrow dead two thousand years,
By the grave Greek art immortalised.
I gaze, and lo! it all comes singing back,
My love of ancient days, old hours of study,
And all my peaceful life with those I love,
Mid books and flowers—so very far they seem
Since I first entered on this latest way—
And once again the old majestic names,
The Pompeys and the Cæsars, fill mine ears
With splendid music, once again mine eyes
Are dazed with the inexpressible
Glory that gleams like the very youth of the world
Round the lyric rapture that was early Greece.
Mine eyes are full of visions. I can see
The Salaminian battle; I can hear
Even the Song of Sappho; I can feel
Full on my lips the old divine Greek rapture,
The wonder that can never pass away.
Glory! my heart cries to the expectant heavens,
Glory! my heart cries to the expectant earth,
Glory to God, Who made us! Glory! Glory!
Praise to His Name through the glory of high song!
Praise in the heights and depths; praise, ever praise,
Shout out, my soul, till even the boundless sea
Holds back to listen. There's one victory
God hath to give to those who pray to Him,
Wisdom to know His bidding, strength to essay it,
One hope, one blessing—and its name is Love!
So soul of mine, so heart of mine, Wayfarer,
Rise up, praise God, and get thee to thy furrow.
Straight lies the road ahead, there's no returning,
On! On! What if another hand than thine
Shall hold thy ploughshare at the journey's end?
God's splendid dawn must somewhere break at last.

*London: Selwyn Blount, 27 Chancery Lane, W.C., 1916. Price 2s.

THE AUTHOR

WOMEN ON THE LAND

A lady who replied to an advertisement for women to work on the land received a notice from Westfield College, Hampstead, inviting her to go with a party of seven others to Clipston, in Northamptonshire, for vacation work, at thistle cutting, haymaking and gardening at 3d. or 4d. an hour, a wage of 7s. 6d. a week being guaranteed. A house was provided free, for which the villagers had lent the furniture, the workers having to cook and clean for themselves and provide their own food.

On arriving at Clipston four of the party got seven hours work a day at thistle cutting, and the others three or four hours a day at haymaking. The highest wage was 10s. 9d. earned by one of the thistle cutters, who worked longer than any one of the others. The lowest wage, 5s. 8d., was received by a haymaker, who took all the work that was offered her. The college had chosen a leader for the group of workers to communicate with the employers, to arrange the housework for the group, and to buy the food. The choice of group leader was made haphazard—she happened to call at the college. The group leader worked out the food bill of each worker at 15s. 5½d. The workers, or their parents, were therefore paying from 9s. 9½d. to 4s. 8½d. a week in addition to the railway fare and other expenses in order that they might cut thistles or make hay.

So much for the ladies sent by the college. The working women of the district had also a point of view. For a year or two none of them had been employed at this sort of work, which had recently been done by men, but previously the women had had 1s. 3d. a day. Our correspondent persuaded her companions to join her in asking her employers why local women had not been employed. The reply was that the local women had been canvassed and had refused to work. The local women did not corroborate the statement that they had been canvassed, but they said that 3d. and 4d. an hour was too little to pay for the work, especially now that prices are so high. They pointed out that the young ladies from London were doing men's work at a lower wage, though one of the farmers for whom they were working was notorious for his meanness, and in normal times paid some of his married men only 16s. a week.

Our correspondent and one other member of the vacation party decided to leave at the end of a fortnight, as they were convinced that the presence of vacation workers was preventing the most necessary rise in the district rates of wages which would naturally take place in accordance with the ordinary law of supply and demand. They realised that this law was operating in regard to the food prices, and they could not feel justified in preventing the corresponding rise in wage-rates.

STRAWBERRY-PICKING.

Information comes to us from a correspondent in the Hull district who joined the strawberry pickers at Cottingham, a centre which supplies the markets of Leeds, Bradford, and Hull. There were no amateurs in this party. Most of the women had worked on the land for years, and many of them, who were quite old, had worked at weeding, fruit, flower, pea and bean picking, bunching onions and radishes, and so on, all their lives. It was only occasionally that a worker earned more than 2s. 6d. per day at strawberry-picking; 13s. 9d. a week, if Saturday morning is worked, is the usual rate; 14s. 9d. is only occasionally received. The women seldom reckoned up the amount of their work, and left it to the foreman to deal fairly with them. The rate for strawberry-picking was 1s. 3d. for fourteen 4 lb. baskets, little more than a farthing per lb., but the strawberries were being sold for 6d., 7d., and 8d. per lb. in Hull. The rates for picking had not been raised since the War, but we all know the price of fruit in the market has gone up! The women had to walk a mile and a half to work from the railway station, picking began at 5 a.m. and lasted till 8.30 p.m. The heavy dew, the cold morning air, and the constant stooping made the work exceedingly trying, but whilst the majority of workers went home to breakfast at 8, others, forced on by economic necessity, went on to work at weeding for another farmer until the afternoon strawberry-picking, which began at 3.30 and was supposed to last till 8, but the workers were seldom allowed to stop then. They never reached home before 9 p.m., and it was always necessary for them to be up before 4 p.m.

When our correspondent was leaving this work because the wages were too low, her companions informed her that the nurseryman's wife had told them that their bad language had driven her away. She urged them to demand higher wages, but without success.

Our correspondent next got work at pea-pulling, working from 7.30 a.m. and leaving off at 8 p.m., or earlier if she chose, and being paid 1s. a bag, which is two ordinary sacks full, and weighs six stone. Working as hard as she could from 7.30 to 6, and only taking 10 minutes or so off for dinner, she never filled more than four half-bags, for which she was paid 2s. 2d. She managed to make 12s. 6d. a week. The quickest worker there, who had had five seasons of it, earned 4s. a day, but said that she was so exhausted each evening that she could not sleep at night. When seconding was dictated, which meant going over the rows twice in order that the backward peas might be allowed to ripen, it was, of course, seen that it would take longer to fill the sacks. The workers therefore decided to ask for 1s. 3d. a sack instead of 1s. The farmer refused to agree to this on the ground that he was only selling the peas at 5s. 8d. per bag that day. In Hull, where our correspondent stayed, peas were being sold retail at 9d. per peck.

The workers were afraid to press for the extra 3d. a sack for seconding, and continued working at the old rates.

WE APPEAL TO OUR READERS TO SEND 1s. EACH TO THE DREADNOUGHT FUND THIS WEEK. *Our* DREADNOUGHT is a lifeboat. Won't *you* help to keep it afloat?

HYDE PARK MEETING

to call on

the Government to include Women in its forthcoming Franchise proposals

Sunday, August 13th, 5 p.m.

Speakers: Mrs. BOUVIER, Mrs. DAVIES, Miss LYNCH, Mr. HOGGINS, and others

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All business communications should be sent to the MANAGER, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

SLAVERY.

When a man joins the Army he enters into a strange bondage, a subtle form of slavery, into which he takes his wife and children, and in which neither he nor they have power to claim any rights. At any moment the rules which govern the man's service and the conditions promised to his dependants may be changed, and at no time can he or they rely that existing rules will be carried out. Indeed, the rules are constantly and most shamelessly broken where they should operate for the benefit of the soldiers and their relatives, but are enforced with cast iron severity where they are detrimental and cause hardship, privation, and punishment to the defenceless human beings concerned.

This sounds like an exaggeration, but unfortunately it is but the sober and solemn truth, the habitual day to day experience of those who have had dealings with the War Office. Even in the small matters of the London rent allowance, every loophole for withdrawing it is eagerly sought. A soldier's wife, whose husband was stationed in Derbyshire, before being sent to France, went North to be with him for a time. A wife may cease to pay rent in London for a month without altogether forfeiting her London allowance. In this case the month was exceeded by two days. The woman, who did not know the rule, is now refused London allowance. She is very delicate, and one of her children has tubercular tendencies. She has just had her third baby, and having been seriously ill, requires extra nourishment and care. All this has been made known to the War Office.

The rigid discipline which controls the soldier also encompasses and deals out punishment to his wife and family. For months the War Office stopped the whole of the separation allowance and allotment if the soldier had committed some little fault. In one case the family was left penniless for a fortnight because a soldier had missed the boat. Even after the rule was changed the War Office stopped the money in cases where the offence had been committed before the change. The wife or mother still loses the soldier's allotment when he is guilty of any slight offence. In a typical instance, a man in the Rifle Brigade enlisted after four months in the infirmary with rheumatic fever. He went to the front, came home with shattered nerves, and was still very poorly when he got leave to see his little boy, who was seriously ill with pneumonia, bronchitis, and whooping cough. He overstayed his leave because the child was not out of danger, and he was himself ill in bed. The unfortunate wife was already in financial difficulties through having her husband poorly at home without either pay or separation allowance, when she learnt that she was to lose a further 84 days' allotment. On representations made by us, 28 days of this was remitted. Surely in such a case as this what was wanted was not punishment, but gentle chiding of the man for being afraid to ask for extended leave.

A Bow soldier's wife, who was expecting a baby in about a fortnight's time, was taken ill with acute rheumatism and neurasthenia. She had five other little children, the eldest seven years old. Soldiers' wives cannot afford servants to wait on them. They are dependent on the kindness of friends and neighbours when they are ill. This woman's mother came in when she could to care for the family, but whilst the elder woman was up looking after her daughter, two of the little boys, aged five and three years, strayed away from the doorstep where they played with their little neighbours, and eventually were taken to the Bethnal Green Workhouse by a well-meaning policeman. When the poor young mother, prostrate on her bed, heard that her children were gone she went quite out of her mind, and at the doctor's order she was removed to the Bromley and Stepney sick asylum. Her husband returned from the Front with shattered nerves on his way to another hospital. He took his children home from the Workhouse and then brought his wife out of the Infirmary where she had been for six days. Shortly afterwards she gave birth to a very feeble little baby. She is still suffering with her nerves, and is far from strong. Meanwhile the separation allowance had stopped. After several urgent applications it was started again after three weeks, in which privations were suffered and debts accumulated. All the facts are known to the authorities. The doctor testifies there is no question of alcohol or other misconduct on the woman's part, only an illness brought on by anxiety and overstrain. Yet the paymaster has received letters from the soldier's wife and from us, he has been visited by the woman, he has heard the whole story from her, and must know that the children, fine vigorous little creatures all of them except the baby, and thoroughly well cared for, have all been at home safely for weeks past. Yet a letter has been sent from the pay office that the three weeks arrears of separation allowance will be withheld "pending a report of the whereabouts of your children," and "will you kindly inform me where your children were during the time you were in the asylum, and whether they are at present living with you."

In addition to the withdrawal of three weeks' separation allowance and allotment, 9s. has been deducted for the six days that the soldier's wife spent in the sick asylum. If she had been the wife of an ordinary workman, her husband would have been asked to pay what he could afford towards her keep, probably 2s. 6d. or 3s. a week. The soldier's wife has applied to the Poor Law authorities to remit the 9s., but they reply that it has not been paid to them or deducted at their request.

Pathetic letters from starving people appealing for the allowances to which they are entitled are often altogether ignored, but when the matter is taken up by influential persons, who probably write in more correct form, the grievance is often redressed.

The War Office accounts cannot be trusted. If, as frequently happens throught no fault of her own, a soldier's wife or mother is *overpaid* by the officials, repayment is always insisted upon, and she always has a struggle to insure that the repayments shall not be altogether crippling. Dependants have sometimes been left for weeks without any allowance at all till the amount has been recovered. If, on the other hand, the soldier or his dependants have been *underpaid*, the money is not paid to those entitled to it without repeated application. Justice can often be wrung from the authorities by influential persons after the people concerned have been told that no money is owing to them. The widow of a Reservist who had been a sergeant prior to the War received the pension on the corporal's scale. She wrote explaining the matter and sending a certificate showing her husband's rank, without result. We wrote to the authorities on her behalf, and six weeks later the authorities agreed to increase the pension by 6d. per week.

A lad aged 16 years and four months enlisted in a London regiment, and two weeks later enlisted in the Rifle Brigade. His mother procured his discharge from the latter regiment, but knew nothing about the former. Three weeks later he was arrested as a deserter from the London regiment. The mother again asked for her son's discharge, but was told that his official age was 19 years and four months. The mother wrote to her boy telling him to make an allotment and also brought the matter to the notice of his commanding officer, who replied that she could get nothing whilst he was being punished for desertion. The boy's sentence expired in February. He then made an allotment to his mother. The mother applied for separation allowance and was told that she could not have it because the proper application had not been made before December 10th. Meanwhile, not even the allotment came through, though 3s. 6d. a week was being stopped from the lad's pay. We wrote on March 28th pointing out that the matter was a very serious one for the family, because the mother was a widow with four dependent children, a daughter of 15 years who only earned 6s., and a son of 19 who had returned from the Front with one arm a month before, and still received no pension. The mother could only earn 11s. a week by office cleaning, out of which she had to pay 1s. 3d. a week in fares. Before going to the War the 16-year-old lad had allowed her 14s. a week and had most of his food out. Eventually the War Office discharged the lad, but the mother did not get the arrears of allotment.

A soldier's widow with four young children was told that there was no pay due to her husband at the time of his death. But eventually she recovered £1 8s. 6d. She believes that there is more owing to her.

After much agitation, it was agreed to allow unmarried wives and their children maintenance on the same scale as those who are legally married, but the War Office acts the part of Paul Pry in ferretting out the truth as to whether, at the time of enlistment, the husband and wife were living in the same house and upon the terms which the military authorities consider proper. If the matrimonial relations have not been in accordance with the War Office standard, separation allowance on the married scale is refused, and the wife is treated as some other dependants, receiving an allowance equal to the value of what she can *prove* she received from her husband, provided it is not more than 12s. Often there is no proof of what the husband gave. In the case of one woman whose husband is now in the trenches, the War Office has refused separation allowance because some time before the war the husband deserted her, though afterwards he repented, and before enlistment wrote to his wife as follows:

Dear Polly,—I am writing, hoping you're all in the best health as it leaves me at present. I am sending you as much as I can, hoping you will be satisfied, and I have got two rooms, and if you will be suited with them until I can get a house to myself I will get them furnished and you can come, but, Polly, if you cannot trust me, I don't wish to force you, but I will keep my promise, if we get together again, to be a good husband to you and do my best to make you happy and comfortable. I should have come over, but I am upset after seeing the children, and have to come away and leave them behind. So if you will write and let me know what you will do I shall be very pleased, and I have sent you a stamped envelope with my address on. So give my love to the children and accept the same yourself from your husband.—CHARLIE.

(Give these to the children for me xx).

Unfortunately, the joint home had not been re-established when the husband enlisted, not knowing War Office methods. The presentation of the above letter ought at once to have ensured the payment of separation allowance, as the husband at once made the usual allotment. Nevertheless, months have elapsed, and this wife is still without her separation allowance, although her husband is constantly endeavouring to secure it for her.

An old woman of 72, whose husband disappeared in 1873, was told that she could not have the pay and effects of her late son, whom she had brought up from babyhood, as her husband, who is the son's "legal parent," might return to claim them. After much correspondence and the provision of guarantors to return the money and effects should the husband ever appear again, the matter was settled. A soldier's wife, with several little children, who was deserted by her husband several years before, was told that she could not have the £20 due on her son's account unless she and her guarantors could prove that they had the means to refund it—an impossibility in this poor woman's case.

The callousness of the treatment of disabled soldiers and their dependants is beyond all human understanding. One is filled with sheer bewilderment on contemplating it. A man who had seen service in Gallipoli was invalided out of the Army with an excellent character. A bomb, striking him in the jaw, destroyed the sight of one eye, the Army doctor said that the sight of the other was rapidly going and could not be saved. The man is also deaf, and his nerves are shattered. He was sent home on Saturday, April 29th with 17s., with which he was told to buy a suit of civilian clothes. Men's clothes of the poorest quality cost from 30s. to £2 in this neighbourhood. The wife drew her separation allowance on the following Monday morning, but the next day received a letter telling her to send it back. She replied that she considered herself entitled to it, but would return it when the pension came through. She received a letter stating that if the money were not returned at once she would be prosecuted. She is a high-spirited little woman, and she replied: "Prosecute me if you like, it will show you up!" Then a letter came to say that the authorities would accept the money at the rate of 5s. a month. The soldier's wife replied that if the money were to be recovered it must be taken out of the pension allowance. But in the meantime there was no pension, and the wife was earning about 5s. a week by box-making. The regimental authorities were also writing to the soldier for the return of his khaki clothes. The wife replied that 17s. would not buy him a suit, and that, moreover, she had spent that money to buy her husband food. The authorities angrily demanded that the husband should come and deliver up the khaki. The wife replied: "Do you want him to come naked?" The authorities replied that if the man did not bring the khaki clothes they would lock him up, and believing that they were vindictive enough to do it, the wife relented, and brought forth an old suit. Now she has secured for her husband, who has not yet been examined by the Medical Board, the temporary allowance of £1 a week till his pension is settled, and she is writing to Chelsea Hospital twice a week! But the family is suffering severe privations, for two adults and several children cannot be supported on £1 a week.

(Continued on back page, column 2)

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

August 1st.—Mr. King, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. O'Donnell urged that Sir J. Maxwell has discontinued the services of Sir Francis Vane merely because he insisted on reporting the murder of Skeffington and others in Portobello Barracks, though General Machonochie reported that he had rendered valuable services and should be permitted to return to the front.

* * * *

Mr. Anderson stated that the Leeds Insurance Committee has announced that 110 tuberculous insured persons enlisted in Leeds during the year. Mr. Forster tried to explain the matter away by giving details as to the precautions taken to keep such tuberculous men out of the Army, and spoke of suitable and searching medical examinations!

* * * *

Mr. Watt, Sir Arthur Markham, and Mr. Jowett complained that boys under 18 are kept in the trenches, though their parents ask for them to be sent home. Mr. Forster made vague replies, and on learning that one lad had been shot, said, "I am very sorry I had not heard of it."

OLD-AGE PENSIONERS.

Old-age pensions of 5s. are only given to those whose total income, including pension, does not exceed 12s. 6d. a week. If an old man and woman have 10s. a week, the pension is reduced to 2s. 6d. It was promised as war relief that where the military and naval separation allowance and allotments should raise the income of an existing old-age pensioner above 12s. 6d., the pension should not be reduced. Mr. Jowett asked that the same rule should apply to old people who are now applying for pensions as well as to those who were pensioners when the rule was made. Mr. McKinnon Wood refused. We suppose this is one of the fruits of Conscription. The Voluntary System was in force when the rule was made.

THE LLOYD GEORGE ORDER.

Dr. Addison explained to Mr. Anderson that the rates of pay, 4d. and 4½d. per hour, prescribed in the Order 447 of the Munitions of War Amendment Act, 1916, are to be regarded as *ordinary fixed wages*, not minima. The women will not be able to apply to the arbitrators under the Munitions Acts of 1915 and 1916 to get higher wages. Mr. Anderson said, "I think it disgraceful that this should be the state of affairs." We agree with him.

TAXI-MEN'S PETROL.

On the consolidated fund Sir Frederick Banbury complained that the Petrol Committee only allows him enough petrol to drive to the station once a week.

But poor people who are older than he is always have to walk.

Mr. Strauss and Mr. Wiles spoke up for the taxi-cab drivers who have been allowed only two gallons of petrol a day, which will only enable journeymen drivers to make about 15s. or 16s. a week. Men who are buying their cabs on the hire system are paying out for them about £3 per week, and will only be able to work three days a week, and will not be able to continue their payments.

Mr. Harcourt said these men may have the protection of the Emergency Courts Act. Cold comfort!

* * * *

Mr. Dillon stated that Lord Decies, the military Press censor, had issued a notice forbidding the publication of a letter from a certain Catholic Bishop, this notice being written on the notepaper of the Kildare Street Club, the home of Unionist Toryism.

FRIENDLY ALIENS.

Mr. Morrell reproached Mr. Herbert Samuel for his treatment of friendly aliens, especially Russian Jews. Mr. Samuel, a Jew himself, refused to budge from the position that unless friendly aliens will enlist in the British Army they will be deported to their native countries. He agreed to consider whether Russians who can prove that they are political refugees may be allowed to choose the country to which they shall be sent. If the decision as to who is a political refugee is to be left to those who decide who is a conscientious objector, the result is a foregone conclusion.

Mr. Samuel's excuse for interfering with the friendly aliens is that the British East Enders may riot if the aliens are not made to fight. What will he say when East Enders offer to riot because prices are so high?

There seems to us neither logic nor justice in demanding that because we have entered into War, other people who happen to be living here should also be made to fight. And if we are so churlish as to refuse hospitality to non-combatants we might at least let them choose what part of the globe they will go to!

* * * *

Mr. Chamberlain read a telegram from the Indian Government explaining that the number of deaths from heat stroke on the troop train from Karachi was due to negligence on the part of the officers in charge. Unacclimatised troops are never sent by rail in summer through the Sind Desert, and the train was "insufficiently equipped," "overcrowded," and without proper medical attendance.

* * * *

Mr. Wedgwood complained that Frederick Crowsley, who was sent to prison for distributing "don't shoot" leaflets four years ago, is getting the same objectionable treatment as other conscientious objectors. He has been "punched round the square," and had a walking stick pushed up his nose. Mr. Wedgwood said: "While I have been away in East Africa, the Conscription Act has been passed, and apparently by some rather stupid muddle, by the ignorance of the officials concerned, proper provision does not seem to have been made for men like that."

When he was home from the front before, Wedgwood demanded conscription. He ought to have known better than to have allowed himself to be made a tool of the Tory coercionists.

* * * *

The Prime Minister moved to cut down the days allotted to Supply. Mr. Dillon complained that since the War the Irish Supply days have been cut out altogether, and declared that as the Irish Party has been betrayed by the Liberal Party, which it loyally supported, it will not consent to forego the rights of Ireland any longer.

In our view the Irish Party has been too subservient during the War. It has just woke up to this fact.

* * * *

Mr. Houston asked for how long the House would adjourn.

Mr. Asquith replied, "I hope for a substantial time," at which there was laughter. Mr. Asquith explained that he meant for about six weeks. He added that as this Parliament would naturally expire in September, it "absolutely essential" to pass before the adjournment a Bill to extend its life for some months. When this Bill is introduced, he said, "We shall put the House and the country in possession of our proposals in regard to registration—the detailed discussion of those proposals must be reserved until after the House resumes."

Sir Edward Carson asked whether there would be a Bill or only a statement.

Mr. Asquith replied that it would be out of the question to carry a Bill through all its stages before the adjournment.

* * * *

The Home Secretary introduced a Bill to assimilate the time of Ireland to that of England. Mr. Dillon divided the House against it, securing 54 noes to the Government's 178 ayes. It was clear that the Irish Party has definitely gone into opposition.

* * * *

The appointment of the Special Commissioners in regard to the Dardanelles and Mesopotamia was discussed. It was objected that Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge is 77, and that of the four other nominees the youngest is 67. The Prime Minister replied that there are older men in the House of Lords. Unfortunately there are!

* * * *

August 2nd.—Colonel Yate brought up the question of men who had earned their pensions by 21 years' service, and who had rejoined and were now incapacitated, and granted only the same pension as those without previous service.

Mr. Forster promised consideration!

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The Prime Minister refused to permit the discussion of a resolution to allow Mr. Ginnell to return to the House.

* * * *

Dr. Addison stated, in reply to Mr. Annan Bryce, that out of the total number of 60,000 employees at Woolwich, 3,000 are employed regularly for seven days a week, but are given one Sunday in about every three or four weeks. About 2,400 volunteer week-enders are employed. Some of the women workers have one day's holiday in seven. Women are employed on 11-hour shifts.

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Mr. Snowden disclosed the fact that at Sheffield a gardener who had never seen a shell in his life had been appointed inspector at a munitions factory.

* * * *

Mr. Snowden stated that two women were dismissed from a shell-filling factory in Middlesex for having accepted a cup of tea during working hours. Under present arrangements women sometimes are kept seven hours without food.

What short-sighted tyranny! Where is that wonderful Health of Munition Workers Committee?

* * * *

Dr. Addison announced as a substantial reduction in hours worked by women at Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., Erith, 57 hours weekly on day-shift and 54 on night-shift.

Trade Union hours are 48, and they are much too long!

* * * *

Until late in the night the Irish Members told of the heartrending things that had taken place in Ireland. Two innocent men were shot in an alley by the military, and their bodies crushed into a hole with the head and feet jammed together. The old father of one of the men died of grief. "You talk of the fearful murder of Captain Fryatt," said Mr. Meagher, "look at these two cruel murders by the military." A man was ordered by the military to leave his house. He obeyed and was shot dead by them as he turned the key in the lock. Non-combatants were shot as they left their burning buildings carrying white flags. A young girl knelt, imploring the officer to allow the women and children to leave a burning building without being fired on, and at first implored in vain. A daughter raising her father's dead body under cover of the white flag was fired on by the soldiers.

Mr. Landun complained that Sir John Maxwell had tyrannised in Egypt, and had tried the same methods in Ireland. Mr. Nugent complained that Bowen Colthurst, who was supposed to be mad when he murdered Sheehy Skeffington, still holds his commission.

* * * *

Mr. Asquith announced that the Government has adopted the resolutions of the Paris Conference. It was impossible, owing to the way in which the matter was introduced, to take a vote of the House upon the matter, and Mr. Gordon Harvey's question as to how the House of Commons is to have the "unfettered and free action" promised by the Prime Minister remained unanswered. Evidently, the assent of Parliament is to be dispensed with.

* * * *

Mr. Asquith's speech revealed the haunting fear of German competition, by which so many men are obsessed to-day, which seems to make them erect a mental picture of powerful groups of nations massing ever more gigantic armies and navies and trade combinations against each other. Once again, too, it showed that Mr. Asquith is entirely at the bidding of his one-time political opponents. As Mr. Snowden said: "While he pronounced a funeral oration over Free Trade, he told us, as he told us on the last occasion, when he surrendered voluntaryism, that he still remained an ardent Free Trader. The Prime Minister was an ardent Home Ruler some time ago. The only thing the Prime Minister has left to surrender is his office." It is a pitiful spectacle, but to women who heard Mr. Asquith glibly declare that "Taxation without representation is Tyranny," and "the people's will shall prevail," whilst he denied them votes, the spectacle is neither unexpected nor unwonted.

* * * *

Mr. Snowden declared, in the words of *The Times*, that Germany had secured her trade by "silence, intelligence, hard work, and adaptability." We must secure ours in the same way. To adopt the proposals of the Paris Conference, which he described as "madness," would be "to give the lie to every reason given by the Government for Britain's participation in the War."

* * * *

Mr. John Hodge, a one-time Labour leader, made an out-and-out Tariff Reform speech, and said that he wondered how, except by customs duty, subsidy, or bounty, farm labourers coming back from the War can be enabled to earn as much as their wives now get in separation allowance. Mr. Hodge has evidently forgotten the possibility of Socialism.

* * * *

August 7th.—In reply to Mr. Harvey, Mr. Samuel announced that the scheme for the employment of conscientious objectors who have been referred to the Home Office Committee is farthest advanced under the Road Board, but no recommendations have yet been made. Are the conscientious objectors to be employed like convicts in gangs upon the roads?

* * * *

Mr. Llewelyn Williams drew attention to the fact that at the Llanelly Steel Works 102 soldiers are employed. They receive no wages, except their soldier's shilling a day. Dr. Addison explained that the contractors pay the military authorities the wages that civilians would get. Mr. Outhwaite pointed out that although 5,000 men have been dismissed from Woolwich Arsenal, soldiers are being drafted in to do their work.

Who said Industrial Conscription?

* * * *

Mr. Grant pointed out that on clerical war work women work longer hours than men and are paid between 35s. and £3 a week, whilst men get £4 or £5. Mr. McKinnon Wood could not believe the work was the same for both men and women, but would make inquiries.

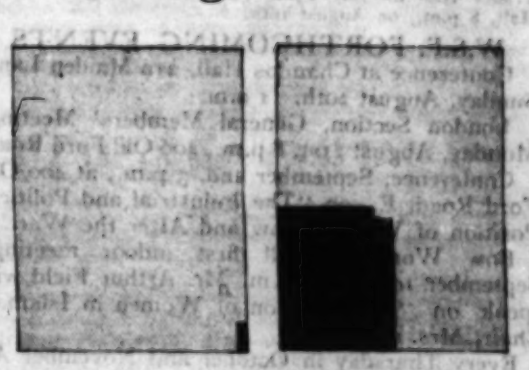
* * * *

Mr. Forster explained that soldiers who lose their reason through service are entitled to the same pension as other soldiers who are totally disabled, but the cost of their maintenance is deducted, the balance, *if any*, being paid to their dependants.

* * * *

August 8th.—Mr. Asquith said, in reply to Major Astor (Plymouth, U.), who asked if he could say when the Government proposed to deal with the registration of voters and enfranchisement of soldiers and sailors, that the Government would state their proposals in regard to the matter when the Bill for prolonging the life of Parliament was introduced. That would be, he hoped, next Monday. Asked by Major Astor whether it was intended to pass the proposed Registration Bill before the measure for the extension of the life of Parliament, Mr. Asquith replied: "Oh, no; I must refer the hon. member to the answer I gave a few days ago." Answering Mr. R. M'Neill, who wished to know whether the proposal with regard to registration would be put forward in a Bill before the Bill for the extension of the life of Parliament was passed, Mr. Asquith said that the Government would probably find it desirable to table a Bill.

A Message to Mothers



Babies Fed on Glaxo.
Showing the small percentage of deaths from Summer Diarrhœa.
MORTALITY RATE:
4 per 1,000

Babies Fed Otherwise.
Showing the alarmingly high percentage of deaths from Summer Diarrhœa
MORTALITY RATE:
232 per 1,000

THE Summer of 1911 was the hottest we had had for 54 years, and Summer Diarrhœa had a regular harvest. There was one town where they saved babies, though the same sun was just as fierce there as elsewhere, and this, too, in spite of it being a densely populated manufacturing town—Rotherham.

In the Annual Health Report for 1912, appears the following:—

"During the month of September 240 babies "under one year were fed on Glaxo, and only "one died. This gives an infantile mortality "rate of 4 per 1,000 births . . . . Among "the remainder—about 160—37 died, which "yields an infant mortality rate of 232 per "1,000 births."

The address of Glaxo is—
Dept. 52, 155 Great Portland Street, London, W.
Proprietors of Glaxo are—
Joseph Nathan & Co., Ltd., London and Wellington, N.Z.
16086

"TRUTH AND THE WAR" By E. D. Morel

Stiff Paper Covers, 2s.; Superior Cloth Bound, 4s. 6d.

Of this wonderful Book, "The Woman's Dreadnought" says:
"Darkly hideous is the story of 'diplomacy' that is revealed. It cannot be dismissed."

YOUR BOOKSHELF IS NOT "ALL THERE" WITHOUT IT

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.
Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Shlette.
Beckton Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Beamish.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th.
Morpeth Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Grundy Street, 3.30 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Lynch.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th.
Edmonton Green (Joint Meeting with N.C.F.), 11 a.m., Miss Lynch, Mr. Ward.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Hyde Park (Marble Arch), 5 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch, Mr. Hoggins, Mrs. Davies, &c.
MONDAY, AUGUST 14th.
"Peacock," 7.30 p.m.. Miss Lynch.
Lesbia Road, 7.30 p.m., Miss Price, Mrs. Cressall.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th.
White Cross Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
Dock Gates, 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 to 10 p.m., Reading Room.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Davies.
Outside "Cock" Hotel, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 17th.
"Whitehouse," 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18th.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Shlette.
Ordnance Road, 7.30 p.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Beamish.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19th.
Grundy Street, 11 a.m., Mrs. Drake, Miss Lynch.
Hague Street, 3 p.m., Miss Price.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

Bow, 400 Old Ford Road. Secretary, Miss Price.—DREADNOUGHT sales week ending August 5th, 850. Mrs. Holloway, 358; Miss O'Brien, 202; Miss Harriett, 114; Miss Price, 96; Miss Smyth, 56; Mrs. Eglinton, 20. General, 94.

PORTSMOUTH. Hon. Secretary, Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road.—A successful outing to Stokes Bay took place on August 6th. The best thanks of the Branch are due to Mrs. Clarges for her energetic paper-selling during Miss Prewett's absence. Eight dozen DREADNOUGHTS were sold at the official opening of the Trades Hall on July 29th. Branch meeting at Trades Hall, 8 p.m., on August 16th.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Conference at Chandos Hall, 21a Maiden Lane, Sunday, August 20th, 11 a.m.

London Section, General Members' Meeting, Monday, August 21st, 8 p.m., 400 Old Ford Road.

Conference, September 2nd, 3 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road, E., on "The Industrial and Political Position of Women Now and After the War."

Bow Women's Hall first indoor meeting, September 10th, 7.30 p.m. Mr. Arthur Field will speak on "The Position of Women in Islam." Chair, Mrs. Bouvier.

Every Thursday in October and November At Homes will be held at Chandos Hall (21a Maiden Lane, W.C.), at 3.30 p.m.

Caxton Hall Exhibition, December 7th, 8th, and 9th, from 3 to 10 p.m. daily.

HEAT DANGER.

The hot weather comes as a welcome change to many people, but to the babies of East London it brings serious dangers. The infant death rate in the district immediately surrounding the Mothers' Arms is 152 per thousand, whilst the rates in Poplar and Bromley are also high. Children suffering from the hot weather plague—infantile diarrhœa—will be brought to us in a state of collapse during the next few weeks. They can all be treated in our nursery and clinics with good chance of recovery if friends will provide the necessary funds.

CONSCRIPTION FOR WOMEN.

From *The Times*, August 3rd:—

"Why should not the National Register—which, it may be remembered, registered women as well as men—be used for the purpose of conscripting women on somewhat the same lines as the Military Service Act? Every woman, or at least every unmarried woman, between the ages of 18 and 40 could then be called upon for work of national importance, unless she is granted exemption, and in many cases her place could be filled by an older woman. Much has been said about the male slacker—now become the conscript—and much about the excellent work rendered by the women of the nation, but there are women slackers, too, though, fortunately, not very many, and they ought to be rounded up."

VOTES FOR WOMEN BANNED.

The Manchester City Council has refused to sanction the holding of a Votes for Women meeting on Platt Fields by the United Suffragists. All the other local suffrage societies and the Women's Co-operative Guild have signed a protest.

INJUSTICE.

At the annual conference of the National Association of Grocers' Assistants in London on Saturday a resolution was carried to exclude women as members on the ground that their membership would be an obstacle to the redemption of pledges to reinstate those serving in the War. Mr. J. V. Reading (Highbury) and Mr. W. J. Stacey protested against this "suicidal" policy. It is a scandalous and short-sighted policy on the part of the grocers, since it will merely produce blacklegs, especially as the employers are asking the Board of Trade to allow boys of 12 to act as errand boys for them after school hours.

* * * *

Women preachers in churches are being denounced all round. If they are banned, the churches, not the women, will surely be the losers!

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The French Socialistic Congress has decided by 1,824 votes to 1,075 not to resume relations with German Socialists.

Thus well over a third of the French Socialists have recovered from War fever. Matters are moving on.

SLAVERY (continued from page 528)

On January 17th, 1916, we applied for pension for a soldier who had been discharged in December, 1914, suffering with pulmonary phthisis, contracted whilst in the Army, and due, as he thought, to sleeping on the floor for four weeks and getting wet through on parades. This man had been told that he was not entitled to pension, but wrote to us hoping to get a bounty. On July 1st Chelsea Hospital promised a pension of 1s. a day. On July 8th we wrote to say that the man had received no money. July 17th the first payment of 12s. was received. On August 2nd the man wrote to say that he had received no more money. This man has a wife and five children.

Everyone is familiar with these appalling cases. But for months we have been promised that all would be changed from cheeseparing meanness to kindly generosity by the grants of the Statutory Committee. Now, at last, that Committee has published its rules. Unfortunately we find them marred by the familiar War Office spirit.

These rules direct that in deciding whether supplementary grants are to be made, the income during the year prior to mobilisation must be considered, and *from it must be struck out any increase that may have been due to war circumstances* if the man has joined his regiment after war began. But *no allowance is to be made for the increased cost of living caused by the war.*

The increased allowances, which may only be granted in "exceptional circumstances," must be within the following limits:—

Widow with no children, 50 per cent. of the pre-war income.

Widow with children, 66⅔ per cent. of the pre-war income.

Pension and grant in no case to exceed £2 a week, or 15s. in the case of a childless widow, or 17s. 6d. for a widow with one child.

Deductions are to be made for the earnings or earning capacity of childless widows and widows with one child, whichever be greater, and deductions of [illegible] per cent. for earnings or earning capacity of widows with [illegible]dren under ten years.

Therefore, if the Committee says that a woman is fit to earn all that she is now getting by way of supplementary allowance, that allowance will be stopped whether she can get work or not.

This a most dangerous principle. We must beware lest it be extended to the War Office pensions.

The allowances of parents, if more than 12s. 6d. a week, may not exceed 80 per cent. of pre-war incomes, or 30s. a week, *whichever be less* (again the meannest discrimination).

"Other dependants" (does this include unmarried wives?) may not have altogether more than 66⅔ per cent. of the pre-war dependence, or 20s. a week, whichever is less. If there are several such dependants, and the pre-war dependence did no exceed 90s., they may have that!

Disabled men may get up to 50s., partially disabled up to 40s., but in no case more than the pre-war income. Partial disablement allowances shall be "strictly temporary at first," and subject to periodical re-assessment. Where the War Office has refused a pension for disability caused by aggravation of disease through service, a grant not exceeding four-fifths of the supplementary pension which might have been granted if the man had been pensioned by the War Office may be made. Thus, if a man with six children who ought to have got 40s. from the War Office be totally disabled in this way, he may get 8s., and if he is held to be only partially disabled, and if he still breathes, they will almost certainly say he is only partially disabled, and he can get nothing at all!

The earnings of the wife, children, and other dependants are to be taken into consideration. An appallingly mean provision. And yet women are still refused the vote!

In assessing the amount of supplementary allowances *no loss of income is to be taken into account unless it is directly due to the death or disablement of the soldier or sailor.* Thus the woman whose husband dies during the war is denied the extra assistance that her son would hasten to give her were he free.

"A supplementary pension or special (temporary) allowance may be refused or varied at the discretion of the Statutory Committee, and shall be withdrawn by them in the case of what the Committee may chose to term 'gross misconduct.'"

The whole system is blighted by the spirit of that grudging thing that is often misnamed "charity." It has all the worst features of the Poor Law, and provides any fussy or spiteful busybody who may become a member of a Local Committee with abundant opportunities for coercing the soldiers and sailors and their wives.

When will the country insist upon justice for the war victims? When will it insist that soldiers and sailors shall be paid a living wage, and that the pensions shall be adequate and granted automatically and without prying to all who are bereft or disabled, and that pensions and wages shall be raised with the increase in the cost of living?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

WANTED VOTES, NOT FLATTERY

Mr. Bonar Law and Lord Robert Cecil received a deputation at the Colonial Office from the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, at which Mrs. Fawcett said: "That the N.U.W.S.S. would stand aside if coming franchise alterations were confined to placing on the register men who had lost their votes owing to absence on war service." Even "antis" praise women's "war service." Therefore, though our plea for votes is not on that ground, but on the basis of the right of all human beings to a vote, we regard the N.U.W.S.S. views as unrepresentative of the general feeling in the country. This action of the N.U.W.S.S. will prove to be a tremendous blunder, unless, as we believe, men's political factions demand that the qualifying period shall be shortened. The N.U.W.S.S. says that in that case it will demand that women shall be included in the Franchise or Registration Bill. Will Mrs. Fawcett's organisation stick to its guns? Lord Robert Cecil professed to agree with Mrs. Fawcett. Will he stand to his words?

AN INSULT

We are disgusted by the slanderous statements against working-class mothers, made by Mrs. Catherine Tanner, the Lady Almoner to the London Hospital. She suggested, according to the report of her evidence in the *Daily News*, that maternity benefit is only occasionally used to pay a nurse, and the report states that "the type of woman engaged is rather of the Dickens' 'gamp' type, who brings drink to the mother, and who is paid from 5s. to 12s. 6d." The proof that maternity benefit is extensively used for the fees of doctors and midwives is that they have raised their charges since the passage of the Act. We agree, however, that the rapacious landlord sometimes gets a share of the maternity benefit. Mrs. Tanner wishes maternity benefit to be spent for the mothers by charitably disposed ladies or Local Government officials. Some people cannot endure the thought of a working woman having a few shillings to spend. Our view is that irresponsible amateurs are more likely to waste the money than the average working-class mother.

GOVERNMENT CONTRARINESS

Lord Wimborne has been re-appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, despite Mr. Asquith's announcement that the new Chief Secretary was to be left without a Lord Lieutenant, a position which he described as bringing a "little money" and "providing a certain amount of apparatus of the ritual and ceremonial of State, and enabling gracious and well-mannered persons to discharge social and charitable functions with advantage." The Government seems to have finished with Ireland—now is the time for Ireland to try to do something for herself.

PROFITEERING.

According to figures given in the House of Commons by Mr. Harcourt, the average percentage increase in the cost of food, rent, fuel, light, and clothing is now 65 per cent.

The *Daily Chronicle* reports "The National Light Castings Association" combine effect on the prices of metal. Before the combine was formed the price was 1s. 10½d., after it was 2s. 8d., now it is 4s. 5d. The Government has appointed a committee called the Iron, Steel, and Engineering Industries Committee to investigate matters, but as usual it is composed of people in the trade!

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

PROBLEMS OF PROSTITUTION. THE SHIELD. (7½d. post free quarterly.) Summary of Royal Commission's Report on Venereal Diseases. (2½d. post free.) Warning to Men in Regulated Countries. (1½d. post free.) Present Moral Conditions in Indian Cantonments. (ditto.) —Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19 Tothill Street, S.W.

GOOD HOME OFFERED TO REFINED GIRL willing to undertake work of small cottage in seaside town in Somerset. Two in family. Vegetarians. Suitable girl treated as member of family. Apply, mentioning age and enclosing photograph, to Box 50, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

CAPABLE SALESWOMAN WANTED for travelling in London and suburbs. For particulars apply to Toy Factory, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

KINGSLEY HALL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13th, at 8.15 p.m.
Speaker—GEORGE LANSBURY
Subject—"The Kingdom of Heaven is within you"
Open Discussion at 9.30 p.m.

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY
91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END
W. WOODS & SONS, *Family Bakers*

Gratefully Acknowledged held over for want of space

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